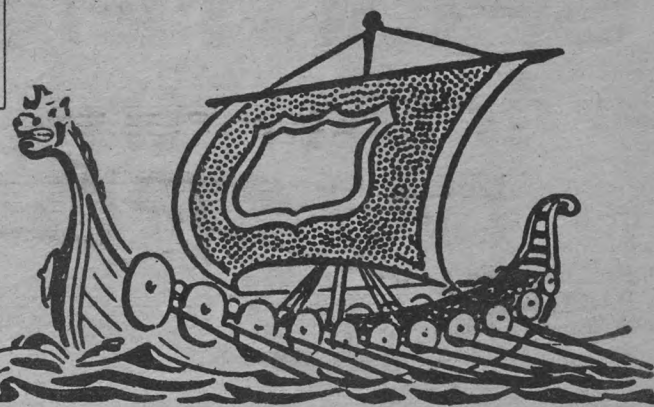


Scandinavian Centre News



PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

VOL. XV No. 2

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February 1975

ANNUAL MEETING

MEET THE MANAGER

By Anne Sahuri
Publicity Director

The new manager of the Scandinavian Centre Co-op Association, Mr. Peter Elander, was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. His wife, Lilly, and their two sons, John and Allan, are also natives of Denmark.

In the fall of 1956 the Elander family came to Canada. Their first stop was in Ontario where Mr. Elander started out by milking cows. Their next stop was Pass Lake, northern Ontario, and then on

enjoys very much. At the present time he is a Senior Lieut. Governor in charge of Education for Saskatchewan and Alberta. There are about 1,000 Toastmasters in the two provinces.

At the time of writing, Peter Elander had just started at the Centre but he had already met many enthusiastic shareholders, and we all join in wishing him all the best in his new position and I am sure that he is just the right man for the job.

In closing, Peter said: "I am really looking forward to the challenge as Manager for the Scandinavian Centre." □

Column of Helpful Hints

By Leif Oddson
Shareholder

Your Scandinavian Centre depends upon the shareholders and what they do. The decisions made and to be made at annual or special shareholders' meetings will determine the success and failures of our co-operative. The articles of our co-operative, the procedures of governing our activities and establishing our policies, and the businesslike way in which we get things done, these three aspects become the keys to the doors of success and to the doors of failure.

The particular Scandinavian societies, which exist within practical reach of our physical Centre, have no authority in the operation of the Scandinavian Centre. The ties that bind are through you, the shareholders, who tell the board and the official manager what to do. To help shareholders to deal

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SHAREHOLDERS URGED TO ATTEND

More Nominations Needed from Floor

By Leslie L. Morris
Managing Editor

Each year an annual meeting of shareholders is held at the Scandinavian Centre. One of the purposes of this meeting is to elect by vote persons to vacancies of the Board of Directors.

The amended constitution says that there should be eleven directors on the board and it was originally planned that each year some directors would have terminated their time and others elected to take their place, while some would remain so that a continuity of business be carried on.

Last year there was only one person elected to the board and there should have been four, which made the board short two members after one was appointed later, with only a complement of nine. This, as expressed by the secretary, Eileen Peterson, made extra work for some on the board.

This year the board needs seven new persons—4 for 3 years and 3 for 2 years. Five on the board now have expired their time, and they are Claus Jacobsen, William Peterson, Anne Sahuri, Soren Sorensen and Stan Hafso—the latter having been appointed by the board last year to help carry out much needed duties. Although the chairman of the nominating committee, Leif Oddson, would not reveal who the committee had put up for election because they had not finished selecting the seven they were directed to come up with, it is understood that Mr. Hafso will be one of them. Mr. Hafso has been acting as Director of The Scandinavian Centre News the past year.

Mr. Oddson reported that the nominating committee had come up with a full slate of recommended candidates to present to the annual meeting. Last year the committee came up with only one nominee; however this year

the Centre's Board of Directors instructed the committee to function as a "nominating committee" with the responsibility to present a full slate of recommended candidates. The last two years the committee had operated as a "nominations committee" and this was not the previous practice.

Mr. Oddson's comment upon this was: "The success of our Centre strengthening its activities depends upon getting resource people to assist board of director members in meeting their responsibilities between monthly board meetings."

Apparently in the past it has been difficult and sometimes impossible to get capable persons to run for the office of director, compounded by the lack of interest of shareholders to attend the annual meeting and bring forth nominees of their own. This apathetic lack of interest on the part of responsible shareholders has put the Scandinavian Centre in a precarious position in the conducting of its affairs. The directors can only do so much, and without a full complement of capable persons to conduct the affairs of the Centre, the Centre can only suffer. (See Leif Oddson's "Column of Helpful Hints" in another part of this issue.)

Shareholders MUST take an interest in the affairs of the Centre, otherwise the Centre may collapse from sheer inertia. Each year it has been getting more difficult to get enough shareholders out to the annual meeting to meet the requirements of conducting a meeting. Last year the meeting was delayed for more than an hour before a quorum could be made. Then there were so few pertinent matters conducted it prompted the secretary (who had the double duties of Director of Shares as well as Secretary) to write a rebuke in The Scandinavian Centre News.

As a shareholder, YOU can be of help at this meeting, so plan to attend it starting at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 19.

Also the nominating committee is only bringing in enough names to complete the vacancies of the Board of Directors, so unless other shareholders attending the meeting bring in other names to put up for election, those selected by the nominating committee will be acclaimed directors, which is not an election in the true sense of the word. One more name from the floor of the meeting will make it an election, none will make the nominees an appointment. Do your part and bring a name for nomination at the meeting!

Other interested persons are disappointed in past meetings as indicated by this quote from the correspondent of the Finnish Society of Edmonton, Elmer Kankkunen:

I hope that somebody with a sharp stick will also head for that other slumber den, the Scandinavian Centre, and poke around to see if there

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Peter Elander

to Winnipeg for a short while. Mr. and Mrs. Elander owned a poultry farm in Ballcarres, Sask., after which Peter took a job managing a broiler farm near Kelliher, Sask. In Saskatoon, Sask., Mr. Elander managed a large poultry farm for ten years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Elander have been very involved in founding and building up the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club. Both have been Directors of the same for many years. Peter has been the President of the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club for two years. And Mr. Elander was the chairman for the committee in charge of bringing in the Danish Gym team a few years ago.

Mr. Elander has been a member of the Saskatchewan Poultry Council for several years and he is very much involved in Toastmaster International, which he

SPLINTERS from the BOARD

By Anne Sahuri
RADIO REPORT

Mr. Les Greenham is waiting for your calls. So don't disappoint him—call him at 455-0082. I think Les has been doing a good job on his radio reports during Saturday mornings and it's about time for us to tell him so. Thank you, Les!

ANNUAL MEETING

Look for the announcement in this issue regarding the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The meeting will be held on Wed., Feb. 19, 1975, at 8 p.m. with registrations beginning at 7:30. Be sure and attend this very important meeting.

ABOUT THE CENTRE

When did you last visit the Scandinavian Centre? Did you meet our new manager, Mr. Peter Elander? Did you notice the new drapes in the Viking Room? Have you seen the brand new piano there? There is much going on at the Centre. Maybe we'll see you there next time. Let's make it on Wednesday, February 19. I'll be there, will you? □

tations from stories and poems into a many-colored pattern illustrating the lives of the Scandinavian ethnic group in America over a period of 80 years, beginning in the 1870s.

The Scandinavian group produced an astonishing number of stories, novels and poems which provide a broad picture of the social history of Scandinavian-Americans: why and how they developed a distinctive subculture, and how it gradually changed from a mixture of Scandinavian and American elements to exclusively American ones. The literature also shows how members of an ethnic group defined and reacted to constant pressures of change in their institutions, behavioral patterns and emotional life as they moved from one culture to another.

Although historians have considered that the Scandinavian group was the most

rapidly and easily assimilated of all immigrants to America after the Anglo-Saxon, the evidence assembled by Mrs. Skardal indicates that they themselves found the experience much more painful and difficult than has been generally appreciated and that they paid a high price in culture shock. Perhaps most of the first-generation Scandinavians who immigrated as adults never felt completely at home in America but lived out their lives with a divided heart.

("The Divided Heart", published by the University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508; 394 pp., \$20.)

RØLVAAG, HIS LIFE AND ART, by Paul Reigstad. The book serves both as an introduction to Norwegian-born author Ole E. Rølvaag's novels about pioneer life on the prairie and a stimulus for continuing appraisal of his achievements. Rølvaag's novels are examined in a biographical context which reveals the forces and influences that shaped his artistic development. Mr. Reigstad has been able to draw on a store of unpublished material, such as letters, and also an auto-

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Scandinavian groups, societies, organizations, associations or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of members' names and addresses. A mailing charge of 6¢ per copy will be charged. This payment and other correspondence should be addressed to: The Scandinavian Centre News 10203 - 78 Street Edmonton, Alberta T6A 3E2

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NORWEGIAN — Wally K. Broen, 9560 - 111 Avenue, 474-2006
SWEDISH — Leonard Eliasson, 13011 - 135 Street, 455-9457
SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE — Harvey Haugen, 8806 - 162 Street, 489-1171 & 425-3817

To a friend
on Valentine's Day

To know the ruffled heart and gently reply,
Chase away the hidden tear and lonely sigh,
To hear your soul whispering low its secret hopes
Is but to love and understand.

I hope to give you this and more,
For the candy kiss I'm sending tomorrow will be gone.
This ink will fade—the paper yellow I write upon.
Only little thoughtful acts will live beyond.

Sincerely yours,
Ann

Articles and Books

THE DIVIDED HEART by Dorothy Burton Skardal has been published by the University of Nebraska Press and is a study of Scandinavian immigrant experience in America through literary sources. It was written by Mrs. Skardal as a doctoral thesis at Harvard University. As a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and a granddaughter of Swedish immigrants, she is married to a Norwegian and is now teaching American Studies at the University of Oslo. Her thesis adviser at Harvard was Professor Oscar Handlin, a leading immigration scholar.

"The Divided Heart" describes the complex psychological and sociological processes through which Norwegians, Swedes and Danes turned from Europeans into Americans. It is a study in the assimilation of a distinct cultural group into a larger host society, told from the inside. The author has fitted together hundreds of quo-

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SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By Eleanor Anderson
COMING EVENTS

Be sure to attend the Valentine Fun Night on Feb. 15. General meeting at 8:00 p.m. Fun, games and prizes at 9:00 p.m. sharp. Come out and meet your friends—old and new. Admission \$2.00 per person. Tickets can be obtained by phoning Betty Travis at 455-2059 or Meril Larsen at 487-4559.

The next Torske Klubben meeting will be held Tues., Feb. 4.

The Sewing Club will meet Jan. 29 at Olga McBride's, and Feb. 12 at Orla Tychsen's. 484 5815

The New Year was ushered in by a sell-out crowd at the Scandinavian Centre.

Unfortunately the cold weather arrived in time to reduce attendance at the Installation Dinner and Dance. A most delicious supper was prepared by Mrs. Sivertsen, Gladys Clark, Hilma Bukvi, Maisie Amdam and Emma Sonstenes. Installation of the new officers for 1975 was most ably conducted by Harv Haugen and escorted to their places by Betty McKeivitt and Bertha Nohr, accompanied on the piano by Del Melsness.

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hafso spent a most enjoyable holiday with his twin brother, Gordon Hafso, and family in North Hollywood, Calif.

Sorry to hear Selma Sorenson has been under the weather.

Spending the holidays with Gladys and Emeth Clark were his nephew, Constable Ken Berg, with the RCMP in Saskatchewan, and his fiancée, Kathy Rudd, of Saskatoon.

Congratulations to Leiv Aasgard on his 50th birthday. Here to join in the celebration were Leiv's brother, Kåre, and wife, Millie Aasgard, from Orebro, Sweden. (What is the attraction in that neighbouring country so as to convince Kåre to live there for 30 years?) Together with Leiv and Marion they visited Banff and Wainwright during their stay here.

Would anyone having the July and August, 1974, issues of the Scandinavian Centre News please pass them on to Janette Burt, our Historian, for her records.

Sharon Sorenson has begun her first 5 weeks of practice teaching at Hillcrest Junior High School. A further 5 weeks will be

spent at an Edmonton High School. Good luck, Sharon.

Mrs. Logergren (Irene Sorgaard's mother) has been in hospital and hopefully will soon be back at the Hythe Lodge.

Molly Cooper holidayed with her brother, Roy Hafso, and family in Red Deer. She also visited nursing homes and hospitals in Viking during the Christmas Season.

Warren Clark is home from Sebastopol, Calif., but plans to return the latter part of January.

Glad to see Orla Tychsen and Doreen Melsness home from their stay in hospital.

Also in hospital was little Rodney Sorenson, son of Bob and Lorraine. Hope you're feeling better by now.

Congratulations to Janette Burt on winning her first curling game.

Our deepest sympathy go out to Mary Schumm on the sudden passing away of her husband, Alfred, a long time member of Sons of Norway. He also leaves two daughters, Mrs. Joffre Groleau and Mrs. Richard Thorlocius, two grandchildren, one brother and two sisters.

BOWLING

Results of the first half of the season:

1st Place Team: VIKINGS—Lloyd Steen, Helge Nilsen, Garth Travis, Jean Gagon, Lis Johansen.

2nd Place Team: TROLLS—Thor Berg, Isabelle Mjaatveit, Wes Travis, Astrid Hope, Glen Ronald.

Ladies' High Average—Isabelle Mjaatveit 194.

Men's High Average—Harry Mjaatveit 223.

Ladies' High Single—Isabelle Mjaatveit 304.

Ladies' High Triple—Isabelle Mjaatveit 693.

Men's High Single—Stan Hansen 398.

Men's High Triple—John Pittis 776.

Team High Single—Vikings 1215.

Team High Triple—Vikings 3118.

Watch for further information regarding the ski trip to Banff.

The sports Weekend in Grande Prairie is being finalized. Contact Helge Nilsen at 434-4300 about Feb. 7 for your skiing, bowling and curling crests which can be purchased for \$1.00.

At its January meeting, Torske Klubben unanimous-

My Trip to Winnipeg

By Olaf Sveen

This time I found myself heading for Winnipeg, Man. This is the middle of the country, but the people there think of themselves as westerners. Going east on the CNR mainline from Edmonton, we travel through some of the finest farmland in the province. But as we approach the Saskatchewan border, the picture changes. We are now in the ranching

ly voted to sponsor and administer a lottery raffle with proceeds earmarked for the Sons of Norway Summer Language and Cultural Activities program. The lottery committee, headed by Bro. Anders Anderson, expect to commence selling tickets early in February, hold an early bird draw in mid-March and the final draw on May 17, 1975. All lodges in Alberta will be asked to participate.

Torske Klubben members are reminded that the next meeting will be Tues., Feb. 4, 1975, at 6:00 p.m. Each member is to make a special effort to bring a guest. Speaker at the function will be Ken Moseley, manager of a data processing centre. Sons of Norway members interested in joining Torske Klubben are asked to contact Bro. Sig Sorenson or Bro. Doug Peterson.

CULTURAL REPORT

By Astrid Hope

The Norwegians held good to the traditional 20 days of Christmas for on Sun., Jan. 12 the Sons of Norway Choir was still singing their Norwegian Christmas carols at the Provincial Museum and Archives. It had been rescheduled from Dec. 22. Mr. Stan Hafso was conducting with Wally Broen and Del Melsness on the accordion and Harry Huser with his violin. There were 27 adults and children participating. They looked very colorful in costume or Norwegian sweaters. For one carol, the children formed a ring around the tree supplied for us, which is a familiar custom at Christmas time. They were preceded in the program by the Icelandic and Columbian Girls Choirs.

On Mon., Jan. 13, Mrs. Astrid Hope, upon request, was at Westbrook Elementary School, 11915 40 Ave. for a presentation about Norway of how the Norwegian Culture and Customs contribute to the Canadian way of life. There were two classes of Grade 5 attending. She also brought suitable handicrafts and artifacts and also showed slides of Norway. They all enjoyed the sample of lefse.

Your next correspondent is Selma Sorenson. Call her at 466-1839 with your news.

country, and after we get to Saskatchewan, to a city dweller it seems as desolate as the back of the moon. But there is a lot of fine beef on the hoof there and for all we know, prosperity. In the early fifties I used to play for dances in many of the towns in our friendly province to the east with Eddie Mehler and his orchestra from Estevan. We had headquarters in Regina, where we had a daily show on CKRM Radio. At one point we even operated from North Battleford.

By this time, our train is running into the night and darkness. We came to a town called Biggar—there is supposed to be a sign outside the town saying "New York is big, but this is Biggar", but I didn't see the sign. After we are past Saskatoon we arrive at very familiar towns, such as Raymore, Punnichy and so on, it was in one of those towns a man claimed he came ten miles on a stoneboat just to hear us play, and it was fifteen below zero! We also played at Goodeve, a real small town, and towns like that cannot be called highspots in the Canadian entertainment circuit, by any means. It seems to me now that some of Eddie's bookings were not overly ambitious.

The ride on the train was real pleasant, and some trainmen think they are real comedians. One time I heard one say to all the elderly couples on the train: "It is nice to see a guy take his daughter for a ride." He said it even if the wife looked at least ten years older than the husband, it didn't make any difference. I guess it is what we call diplomacy. At last I arrived in Winnipeg, and the man who came to pick me up had not seen me before, so we had some complications. However, all is well that ends well.

During my stay in Winnipeg, we got a new mayor in Edmonton, Bill Hawrelak, and in Winnipeg Stephen Juba was re-elected, I believe for the ninth time. This shows

Continued on Page 11

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ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

By Leif Oddson

Well, folks, a lot of you missed the December Newsletter. Its absence was much more noted and commented on than when it does appear on these pages. Why did it not appear? Because it was put where the editor did not get it. Your news source people need and appreciate it when you drop a line or phone in newsworthy items.

NOTES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Christmas party held in the Nordic Room at the Scandinavian Centre early in December was well attended. Les Greenham successfully portrayed Santa Claus. Santa's helper was a bright little elf named Thori—none other than this year's Fjallkona. The children had an excellent opportunity to let Santa know what they wanted for Christmas. They also showed each other and the parents and adults some of their performing talents. Solli Sigurdson led the singing of carols with a flair and flourish that lifted one's spirit.

Greetings of the season were received from Life Members Henry and Lil Sumarlidason of White Rock,

B.C.; from Sadie Lee and Josie Janssen of Red Deer; from the Hon. Joseph Thorson of Ottawa; and from Dr. Richard Beck of Victoria.

Family and friends visit and mingle more at this time of the year because holidays are special days. The MacPhersons spent Christmas in Regina with Lillian's parents, the Bjarnasons. Christmas Eve, an Icelandic celebration, was sparked by Jon and Gudrun Jonsson who led the singing of traditional Icelandic songs, sung around the tree, as they had done in Iceland. Time was spent with Lorne's family and many friends.

Mike Johnson spent Christmas in Calgary visiting his son.

Solli and Shirley Sigurdson and baby Grant flew to Winnipeg. In ten days they visited with their families and friends in Winnipeg, Husavick and Riverton.

Beulah Arason went to Ottawa to visit with her daughter, Carol, just before Christmas. Walter Arason visited with his parents at International Falls, Minnesota to welcome the New

Year.

Grandfather Ingolf N. Bjarnason, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Bjarnason and their children, all from Manitoba, visited Mr. and Mrs. Tom Yelic and Mr. and Mrs. Al Campbell over Christmas and New Year. Niels is Ninna and Hulda's brother.

Jonina Eamon was joined by her mother, Mrs. Danielson, from Gimli for a ten-day visit to Jonina's sister, Lil Melstead, in Castlegar, B.C.

Steini Jonsson is taking a steam and gas fitting course at NAIT. With each new year many try new approaches to help them live better.

Donna Cameron spent two weeks Christmas holidays with her parents in Edmonton. She brought with her a guest, Miss Ernestina Casas, of Mexico City who was a participant in the Canada World Youth Program along with Donna. They enjoyed a white Christmas at home with all the friends and family and then a trip to the home of Donna's aunt and uncle, Ove and Lorraine Gislason, and family at Athabasca and Deep Creek. A real live spruce Christmas tree, with all the trimmings, and lots of snow with skiing and snowmobile rides, was thrilling to a 19-year-old young lady who had spent all her life in a tropical climate of Mexico and had never seen snow. After spending two weeks in Edmonton they left by plane for Vancouver and on to Mexico where Donna will continue to work in the Canada World Youth Program, while Ernestina Casas will attend university.

Mr. Ingram Crawford of Ma Me O Beach has been in University Hospital where he had surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

THORRABLOT

Okay, folks, mark Fri., Feb. 28 on your calendar. Our major annual event will be different this year. It will begin with a social hour in which we all arrive, followed by a banquet fit for a Viking, because it features Icelandic food specialties. Entertainment and a dance will complete a great evening. The annual meeting portion of this event will be a potluck supper Sun., June 1 at the Centre. Tickets for Thorrablot will be limited to 200 members and guests.

AN OPPORTUNITY

The first Icelandic settlers of note to come to Alberta were those who settled in the Markerville area. All Icelanders who possess or know about any suitable heritage items brought here to America and to Alberta can help establish formal recognition of this part of Alberta's heritage. If sufficient and suitable items can be given or loaned to the Alberta Museum in the next ten weeks a travelling display will tour Alberta this year. Contact any executive member of any Alberta Icelandic group to tell if you feel a desire to help establish our part in

ICELAND - Isle of Fire and Freeze - World's Oldest Democracy

During the 'thirties, the well-known British publisher, Sir Stanley Unwin, decided to spend his holidays in Iceland. When he told his friends about his intention, several of them asked him, greatly surprised, whatever makes you want to go to a cold and remote country? To them the name of Iceland suggested a desolate, cold and snow-covered island which would be one of the last places a tourist would want to visit on his holidays.

Sir Stanley's friends, as most other people, did not know much about Iceland, but had in their mind a stereotyped idea of the country, conditioned by the name, Iceland.

Two contemporary factors have done more than anything else to introduce Iceland to the peoples of the world. The former is the regular weather report read over the radio and television every day, making Iceland famous, if not notorious, for the high and low pressure areas conditioning the weather in other more populated areas of the Atlantic region; the latter is the occupation of Iceland during the Second World War, followed by the NATO base at Keflavik after the war.

But weather reports and soldiering are probably not the best medium to spread knowledge about a country like Iceland.

The stereotype of an icy, snow-covered and desolate country is still very much associated with the name, Iceland.

But little as Iceland is Alberta's heritage story.

OBITUARIES

Our sympathies go out to Mrs. Steini (Clara) Jonsson on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Watson, of Eriksdale, Man. Clara and her sister, Mrs. Edith Deverill, of Wetaskiwin, flew to Manitoba on Dec. 28 to attend the funeral and arrived back in Edmonton on New Year's Eve.

Our deepest sympathies also go out to Mrs. Doris Vigfusson, her husband, Norm, and family of Cheney, Wash., on the sudden loss of her mother, Mrs. Emma Strassburger, of Stony Plain, on Dec. 30. Doris, Norm and family travelled all night and arrived in Edmonton at 5 a.m., Tues, the 31st. They returned to Cheney on Jan. 6.

Mrs. Asta Oddson, mother of Leifur Oddson of Edmonton, passed away with little difficulty Tues., Dec. 24. Her funeral service was held in Edmonton and her hoped for new location is upstairs, memorialized in Edmonton's Mount Pleasant Cemetery. □

known throughout the world today, the general knowledge about the country, its people and culture was greatly less and grossly more inaccurate during the Middle Ages. During the 15th century, a trend of publishing travelogues and descriptions of Iceland abroad was started. To begin with these descriptions were included in larger volumes on the Northern countries, but later separate volumes were published about Iceland. In these early books on Iceland the country is called Thule, Island or Islandia, and during the 15th and 16th centuries, judged by these books, it was a common belief that in Iceland there was an opening down to hell particularly through Mt. Hekla, and that the fires in hell would occasionally be visible in Iceland as they broke up in pillars of flame and smoke.

One of the most notorious of these early tales from Iceland is the travelogue of Martiniere, first published in Paris in 1671, and later reprinted several times and translated into many languages.

Martiniere, who probably never went to Iceland, tells his readers that the Icelanders live in caves which they have chopped into the mountains, and that all of them are witches who worship the devil. Their main occupation is fishing and, according to Martiniere, the Icelanders swear endlessly, and the more they swear before they go to sea the more fish they catch. He

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 1

HELPFUL HINTS

with some of our problems, I give you a few ideas of my own:

1. Yearly our board gives its reports. This procedure does not help generate shareholder participation in making things happen at the Centre. The decisions made regarding our co-operative should be recorded in The Scandinavian Centre News each month. These minutes should be short, business-like and factual.

2. Our paid business manager's written monthly report to the board should also be published. While the board is the immediate audience of these reports, we, the shareholders, are the primary audience.

3. The board should review its incorporation documents and its records to develop and publish in The Scandinavian Centre News a policy and procedures manual. This would help the shareholders to help their own co-operative. □

Wally K. Broen, B.Comm., C.A.

Chartered Accountant

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VASA LODGE SKANDIA



By Millie Weiss

The regular meeting was held on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. with Chairman Leonard Eliasson in the chair.

The Buford Lodge 577 installed the executive for the coming year—Geo and Doris Modin and Bob and Barbara Pearson attended the meeting.

PRESIDENT — Leonard Eliasson

VICE-PRESIDENT — Erling Winqvist

PAST PRESIDENT — Joan Petersson

SECRETARY — Doreen Nyroos

ASSISTANT SECRETARY — Leona Anderson

CHAPLIN — Hansine Pierre
MASTER OF CEREMONIES — Ed Hinton

ASSISTANT MASTER OF CEREMONIES — Mildred Weiss

FINANCIAL SECRETARY — Raymond Wold

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY — Clarence Berg

TREASURER — Linnea Lodge

OUTER GUARD — Emil Weiss

INNER GUARD — Herman Nelson

LUNCH COMMITTEE — Matt Eliasson, Fay Litven and Vi Watson on the phoning committee for lunch.

A few members are recuperating at home. Signe Linden is in hospital in Saskatoon.

Harold Lundgren is in Edmonton on a business trip.

Mary Pearson and Martha Hokanson are spending a month in Hawaii.

Annie Sund is also on vacation in Hawaii.

Margaret and Bert Lundgren spent Christmas in Edmonton with her family.

District Master Glen Eliasson and family motored to White Rock, B.C., also got some skiing in at Whistler Mountain.

An old-timer of Alberta, Mrs. Hildur Oberg, passed away at the age of 90 years. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family.

Dean and Lorraine Lindberg were happy to welcome sweet Jodie Lorraine to their family circle. Trevor is thrilled with his wee sister. He just didn't want two boys. She's a perfect little doll, say proud grandparents Clarence and Madge Sanford and Clifford and Paula Lindberg.

Cliff and Paula Lindberg motored to the coast for Christmas. They report a lovely Christmas with Bernice, Darren and Jay in Richmond. They also spent some time with Cliff's mother and family members in Maple Ridge. While in Richmond they enjoyed a visit from Roy and Dot Ekman — former Skandia members. They wish to be remembered to all their friends in Edmonton. Travelling was good, and it was nice to see the Alberta sun after so much rain at the coast, and snow in the mountains. Dry roads all the way back through Alberta and now this—30 below!

The February meeting will be held on Sat., Feb. 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dania Room.

Karl and Marge Leander will be the hosts for whist after the meeting. □

knees. I guess some of the young folks were wondering, "Is he going to make it?" I guess it was because I am 75 years old. I have to admit that when we finally got to the top I was ready to sit down and rest for awhile—but so were the others—so I don't know who was the worst off. But drawing in the wonderful fresh air in deep breaths we were soon refreshed and ready to go on. The scenery was wonderful. As far as the eye could see it was mountain peaks and little lakes, and some trees—birch and some spruce and pine, also juniper or einar (as they are called there). I saw one about ten feet high, the biggest "einar" I have ever seen.

After coming to about halfway of our hike, we felt it would be time for a rest and a bite to eat. We were about 20 in the bunch, just as many women and girls as there were men and boys. The youngest one in the bunch was about 4 or 5. His dad had to carry him at times but I was surprised how well he was doing.

Well, that coffee we brewed there, and that lunch, was, oh, how could I describe it. It was absolutely delicious! We camped at a little lake. The water was ice cold and clear as crystal. It sure made good coffee. We passed an old mountain farm. No one was living there now. The buildings were kept in good shape, however. It was used as a summer camp. But one could well wonder how people could ever make a living on such a place. Rocks and piles of rocks, fences were built of rocks. The few acres of cleared land was used for hay. I suppose they had a few milk cows, maybe three or four, and a few sheep from which they got the wool and warm home-made clothing, and I suppose they were just as happy as a big prairie farmer. From this place we could see down to a big valley. We could see a road with cars and trucks going. We expected there would be about three cars to pick us up. We found 'em waiting for us and got home, having enjoyed the hike immensely. This was just one day of my stay in Norway. There were many more just as interesting, but would take too much space to describe.

I must mention my trip back to Canada, or the experiences we had. I took the train from home that left at 10 a.m. arriving in Oslo at 7 p.m. The train trip was also interesting, at one station a girl hiker got on having one of those big pack sacks on her back. Her sleeping bag was strapped on the very top. She came walking down the aisle looking for a seat. Just in front of me she found one, but as she was swinging her pack around, attempting to get it off her back it hit the passenger next to her, I guess she was just a little bit embarrassed. "Oh, I'm sorry," she said in perfect English, but with an accent I could not place at once. After she got settled down she attempted to talk to the man beside her. I could

not help but listen to their way of communication and I became curious to know where she was from, and leaning over the back of her seat I asked: "Are you English or American?" She sure came up in a hurry when she heard her own language spoken. With a warm greeting and handshake. "No," she said, "Austrian." Being a student on vacation she, of course, had to see Norway. As she got to know I was Canadian, we felt as though we were somehow related.

Arriving in Oslo, one of my nephews was there at the station to take me to his home. The plane was to leave Gardemoen airport at 6:30 in the morning, calling for passengers to be there an hour before departure, and counting on a one-hour drive from the city out there, meant we would have to leave at 4:30. I was just a little bit worried about the whole thing, but my nephew and his fine wife assured me all would be okay. So early in the morning we drove down to city centre where a big bus was supposed to pick us up and take us out to the airport. Already most of the passengers were there waiting for the bus to come at anytime. Everyone was in high spirits seemingly anxious to get back to Canada. But no bus in sight. Everything quiet; it seemed like the whole city was asleep. The minutes were passing very quickly; it was time for us to be on our way. We all started to get just a little bit shaky. My nephew tried to phone the bus terminal but had a hard time getting through. Time was passing fast. Soon it was five—no bus. Then 5:30, time we should be at the airport. Well, I am telling you, it was not funny at all. Some of the guys were really optimistic. There was a real nice boat tied up at the dock near by and someone suggested: "Well, let's take that boat and sail back." Another one looked at me: "Well, cowboy," he said, "you will have to ride back to Canada."

"Yes," I said, "if only I had my horse!"

My nephew suggested he would take me out to Gardemoen, so we left taking another two passengers along. Getting to the airport we found other passengers there just checking in their luggage getting ready for the flight

A Letter from Donna from Mexico

By Donna Cameron
Greetings.

Well, I got here. I haven't really seen much of Mexico City yet. There was a girl here we met in Chicoutimi. We've been to the National Museum of Anthropology. It's huge. We saw a show of Folkloric Dance put on by the National Ballet Company. It was very good. Legends put to dance and numbers portraying the dances and atmospheres of different regions in Mexico. One of the Mexican girls in our group goes to the National Dance School. It is related to this ballet company. That's about all I've done except for going on the crazy subways.

We have a meeting on Monday. I guess I'll know then where we'll be. I'll write to you when I find out the address. Bye for now. □

back to Amsterdam, and then the message came: "The flight is one hour delayed." I was much relieved—possibly the rest would make it in time. Sure enough, after awhile, here comes the bus. It was a happy bunch that came in through that gate. After all, we shall soon be on our way back home.

I think this taught us a lesson—to be more particular about the time schedule. I have found that by leaving Edmonton about 5 p.m. we are in Oslo in the morning about 9 or 10 o'clock, just the right time. It's so much nicer both for us and for those who would like to be at the airport to meet us.

Another thing is that Tornebo airport is near the city of Oslo, but it is closed for the heavy jets at night time. People around the city want to sleep and don't want the noise of big jets landing or taking off.

Must close, with hopes of better luck next time. □

TRAVELING FRIEND

By T. Johnson, Valleyview
Dear Friends!

At the same time as I send a donation for the paper I would like to send a Happy New Year's greeting to the many friends I have met on the flights to Norway. I have made five trips starting in '69.

Now as the long winter evenings are here, there is a lot of time to think about things past and present, and also of things we may hope for, for instance, another trip to Norway. Seems like it gets sweeter every time. One learns to know people better, meet new friends, also the different seasons have their charms.

For instance, last summer, the last part of July was blueberry season. I took to the old places where I used to find 'em as a boy. Oh, what a time I had. Every rock and valley, lake and

water draw I remembered so well. And there were the blueberries, big and shiny, washed clean by the dew and rain. It did not take long to fill the pail—using a berry picker. I saw also a lot of tytebor, but they were not quite ready yet. It was like reliving my childhood days again.

It was decided that we should go for a hike across a mountain range to another valley, not just to look for berries, but just for fun and exercise. The hike would take at least four hours, so we started out about 10 o'clock and was lucky to get a nice day without rain. There were even spells of nice sunshine so we could take pictures. Following an old trail that was always winding upwards, it was a steep climb for the first hour, and it took good lungs and heart, strong legs and

Regular weekly flights are available all winter to Aalborg, Aarhus, Bergen, Billund, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Farsund, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Karup, Kristiansand, Odense, Oslo, Ronne, Skrydstrup, Sonderborg, Stauning, Stavanger, Stockholm and Thisted.



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Scandinavian Centre Co-operative Association Limited

BALANCE SHEET

December 31st, 1974

(With comparative figures for 1973)

ASSETS

	1974	1973
Current Assets		
Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 14,498	\$ 14,755
Accounts receivable	432	383
Inventory of goods for resale, lower of cost or market	900	944
Prepaid expenses, advances	335	2,335
	<u>\$ 16,165</u>	<u>\$ 18,417</u>
Investments		
Guaranteed investment certificates (note 1)	\$ 34,625	\$ 28,549
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Capital Assets		
Land, at cost (note 2)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Building, at cost	127,467	127,467
Furniture and fixtures, at cost	37,637	36,239
	<u>\$175,104</u>	<u>\$173,706</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation (note 3)	63,802	53,815
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$111,302</u>	<u>\$119,891</u>
	<u>\$162,092</u>	<u>\$166,857</u>

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

	1974	1973
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable - trade	\$ 3,601	\$ 377
Deposits on future rentals	2,630	1,655
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total current liabilities	\$ 6,231	\$ 2,032
Shareholders' Equity		
Share Capital		
Authorized: Unlimited number of shares at \$50.00 each		
Funds received from shares issued and subscribed	\$168,278	\$168,063
Retained earnings (deficit)	(12,417)	(3,238)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net shareholders' equity	\$155,861	\$164,825
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$162,092	\$166,857

SUMMARY OF INCOMES AND LOSSES

INCOME		
Interest	\$ 3,233	\$ 2,827
Charter Flights	3,704	2,327
Scandapades	3,369	—
New Years Dance	113	600
Hall Rentals	—	2,800
Donations	50	—
	<u>\$ 10,469</u>	<u>\$ 8,554</u>
Losses, expense		
Hall rentals (see note re depreciation)	\$ 11,955	\$ —
Meetings	414	302
Scandinavian Centre News	5,281	3,740
Social and cultural events - other	1,454	692
Administrative and general expense	544	524
	<u>\$ 19,648</u>	<u>\$ 5,258</u>
Net gains (losses)	(9,179)	3,296
Deficit January 1.	3,238	6,534
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deficit December 31.	\$ 12,417	\$ 3,238

REVENUE

Viking room	\$ 12,426	\$ 15,177
Nordic room	4,575	5,650
Dania room	1,930	2,455
Corkage, mix	11,232	10,356
Commissions - catering	9,200	8,584
Sundry	569	1,920
Interest - savings account	917	—
	<u>\$ 40,849</u>	<u>\$ 44,142</u>

EXPENSES

Advertising	\$ 1,042	\$ 724
Bank charges	97	55
Building maintenance	2,642	1,462
Car allowance	312	300
Depreciation (note)	9,987	—
Equipment maintenance	846	1,960
Equipment rentals	—	113
Garbage removal	366	453
Grounds	740	796
Heat	352	309
Ice	559	709
Insurance	927	1,100
Miscellaneous	998	564
Linen, laundry	83	237
Mix	3,087	3,779
Office supplies	390	636
Payroll	17,695	15,930
Property taxes	6,432	5,853
Supplies	1,454	1,122
Utilities	2,306	2,941
Wages, other	2,320	2,163
Workmen's Compensation	169	136
	<u>\$ 52,804</u>	<u>\$ 41,342</u>
Net Hall Rental Income (loss)	<u>\$ (11,955)</u>	<u>\$ 2,800</u>

SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

Source of Funds		
Funds from shares issued and subscribed	\$ 765	\$ 660
Income from operations	—	3,296
Depreciation of fixed assets	9,987	—
	<u>\$ 10,752</u>	<u>\$ 3,956</u>
Application of Funds		
Net loss	\$ 9,179	\$ —
Acquisition of fixed assets	1,398	970
Investments	6,076	2,667
Shares redeemed	550	—
	<u>\$ 17,203</u>	<u>\$ 3,637</u>
Increase (decrease) in Working Capital	\$ (6,451)	\$ 319
Working Capital January 1st.	16,385	16,066
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Working Capital December 31st.	\$ 9,934	\$ 16,385

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE NEWS

STATEMENT OF LOSS

EXPENSES		
Publishing and Editing	\$ 7,270	\$ 5,868
Mailing	2,202	2,078
Office and general	500	653
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total expenses	\$ 9,972	\$ 8,599
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
REVENUE		
Advertising	\$ 3,752	\$ 3,755
Donations	939	1,104
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Excess of expense over revenue	\$ 5,281	\$ 3,740

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
(This is the only notice that shareholders will receive)

Annual General Meeting

**OF
THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

WHEN-

**Wednesday,
February 19th, 1975**

WHERE-

**The Viking Room
SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE
14220 - 125 Avenue, Edmonton**

AGENDA-

- REGISTRATION: 7:30 - 8:00 P.M.
- READING OF MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL MEETING
- DIRECTORS' REPORTS
- AUDITOR'S REPORT
- BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES AND REPORTS
- NEW BUSINESS
- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
- ELECTION OF AUDITOR AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- COFFEE AND CAKES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Guaranteed Investment Certificates

Heritage Savings and Trust - 9 1/2% Due Jan. 3/76	\$ 15,000.
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce - 8 3/4%, matures Jan. 3/76	5,000
Farmers and Merchants Trust - 9 1/2%, matures Jan. 3/76	14,625
	<u>\$ 34,625</u>

2. Land carried on the balance sheet at a cost of \$10,000 carried a 1973 City of Edmonton property tax assessment of \$63,960 indicating a market value of about \$100,000.

3. No depreciation was claimed for the years 1971, 1972 or 1973. in order to recognize depreciation of the association's assets, the directors have authorized the following rates of depreciation for 1974 and subsequent years.

Building - 5% of cost each year.
Furniture and fixtures 10% of cost each year.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the Shareholders of the Scandinavian Centre Co-operative Association Limited.

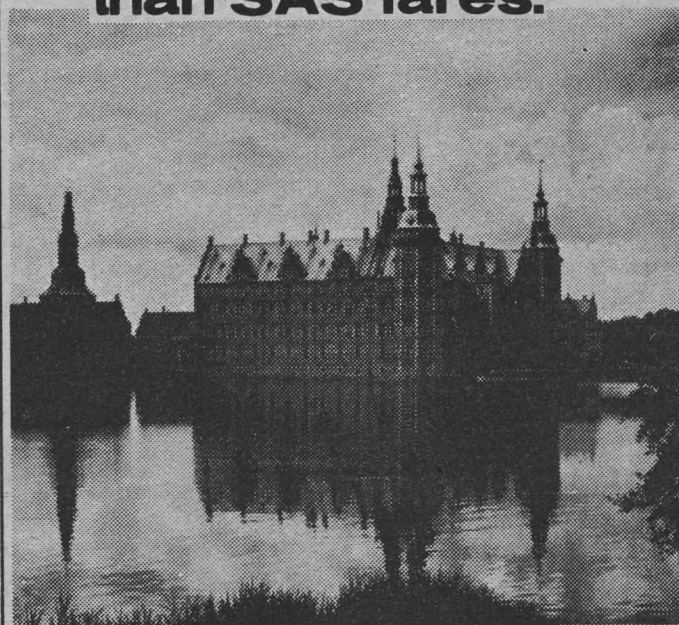
I have examined the balance sheet of the Scandinavian Centre Co-operative Association Limited as at December 31st, 1974 and the statements of income and deficit and source and application of funds for the year ended on the date. My examination included such tests of accounting records and other supportive evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion the accompanying balance sheet and statement of income and deficit and source and application present fairly the financial position of the association as at December 31, 1974 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with those of the prior year except as explained in the notes to the financial statements.

W. K. Broen, Chartered Accountant
9560 - 111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

January 18th, 1975

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NEWS FROM ANSGAR LUTHERAN

By Pastor H. N. Madsen

Although this may be somewhat after the fact, we should still like to convey the following: Pastor and Mrs. Filtenborg and family sent a greeting at Christmas and asked that we convey it to all their friends and acquaintances. Pastor Filtenborg said that they are now beginning to feel at home in Denmark, but that they still have fond memories of all the good friends that they made while in Canada. To each one, then, goes out a greeting for a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, in both Church and Home.

Now that we have managed to cope with the first month of this new year, and really it wasn't that difficult, we can begin to look forward to some of the coming events that lie before us.

Preparations have already gotten into gear for the 13th Annual Spring Supper and Bingo to be held in the Scandinavian Centre. This year we are hoping that we may be able to have it between snowstorms, in-

stead of right on one, as was the case last year. We know that a great many of our friends from out of town were prevented from attending because of blocked roads. However, this year we hope that things will be different. In order to help things a bit, we hope, we have scheduled the supper and bingo for the very early part of April. Therefore we hope that this comes before "Spring Work" for our rural friends. But as they say there are only two types of people who try to predict the weather in Alberta, a fool and a newcomer. And being that we don't care to be cast into either category, we shall just hope that this later date will prove to be beneficial.

Our Ladies Aid members have also been utilizing the long winter nights making preparations for their Annual Spring Bazaar to be held shortly after the first part of May. As soon as we have definite dates for these two events we shall share them with you so that you can make reservations on your calendar for them. □

The Race for Light

At Breckenridge, Colorado, there will be a very special kind of skiing event this winter. On February 23, 1975, 50 blind persons and an equal number of seeing companions will participate in a cross-country skiing trip on a prepared course. Called "Race for Light", it will neither be a long-distance endurance test nor a contest to cover the trail in the shortest possible time. Rather, it will be an opportunity to show that ski touring can be an enjoyable and beneficial experience for blind persons. Skiing in a parallel trail, the companion will tell the blind skier about bumps, turns and hills ahead, guiding him safely through the course.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Ten blind Norwegian skiers will fly to Colorado to participate in the "Race for Light". These are veterans of the annual "Knights Race" (Ridderrennet) in Norway, from which the idea for the Breckenridge event came. It is not commonly known that 18 Americans are among the blind skiers from many countries who have participated in the Knights Race, started several years ago by Erling Stordahl. A former recording artist in Norway, Stordahl—himself blind—is a man with an indefatigable will who has championed sports for the handicapped for a long time. He has been the moving force behind the Beitostølen Health Sports Centre at the entrance to the Jotunheimen Mountains in South-Central Norway where handicapped persons participate in skiing, horseback riding and other sports and learn to appreciate the outdoors.

Stordahl enthusiastically supports the "Race for Light" and plans to be among the participants on February 23. He has provided invaluable support during the planning stage.

Norway's Ambassador to the United States, Søren Chr. Sommerfelt, plans not only to attend the Breckenridge event but also to participate as a companion to one of the blind skiers.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST AND SUPPORT

When the "Race for Light" takes place on February 23, it will be as a result of a great interest and much work on the part of organizations and individuals both in the United States and Norway. Among these are the Lions Clubs International, which have also expressed an interest in the idea of building health sports centres such as Beitostølen in the United States, and the Sons of Norway Foundation. The American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the American Council for the Blind have pledged their support, and two Norwegian military representatives will help with the preparation of the course. There are also indications that United States military personnel may provide assistance. Norwegian TV entertainer Erik Bye, already in the United States to prepare television programs in connection with the 150th anniversary next year of organized Norwegian immigration into the United States, is an active member of the planning committee. Norwegian students in Denver and Boulder will also help out.

The man who took the initiative to stage the "Race

DANIA DOINGS



By Lili Nielsen

DANIA'S SIXTH WHIST-DRIVE of the season will be held on Feb. 11 in the Dania Room of the Scandinavian Centre. Hope to see you all.

Bikuben will meet on the second Monday of the month and we hope to see you all on Feb. 10.

DANIA will be having a membership night on Feb. 15 with a free supper for all our members which will be a SMORGASBORD supplied by Stella. Advance tickets must be picked up at Claus Jacobson's, c/o Mayfield Hardware Store, 15956 109 Ave., Edmonton, before Feb. 12 and membership cards must be presented at the time of pickup. Cocktails at 7:00 p.m., supper at 7:30 which will be followed by dancing at 9:00. This evening will take place in the Viking Room of the Scandinavian Centre. □

SAS NEWS

By Eric Kuutti

SAS OFFERS GOLD BUGS DIG IT YOURSELF PROGRAM

"There's gold in them thar hills" is an 1849 statement applicable to today's Finnmark Plateau in the northern province of Norway.

Located in an unspoiled mountain wilderness above the Arctic Circle is a gold miners' camp, part of an original mining camp discovered and worked gener-

for Light", Olav Pedersen, is a ski instructor from Voss, Norway, who has lived in Breckenridge for the past ten years. In addition to the skiing for the blind, he has invited the participation of handicapped people who will demonstrate that they can enjoy the outdoors through dog-sledding. Besides television coverage, which Mr. Pedersen hopes will make a large audience realize the value of sports for the blind and other handicapped persons, a sizable audience on the spot is assured. February 23 also happens to be the date for the annual "Frisco Gold Rush", a ski touring race for families. Some 1,000 persons are expected for this six-mile race between Frisco and Breckenridge in the heart of Colorado, which will start when the "Race for Light" is finished. The organizers have also received the full cooperation of churches in the area, which will hold no services on February 23 in order that congregation members may attend the "Race for Light". □



HORST SCHMID, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation for Alberta, talks to ERIK PEDERSEN (right) and his wife, THERESE, after Mr. Pedersen received an Achievement Award plaque from the Government of Alberta for outstanding service in Ethno-Cultural activities. (In the last edition it was mentioned Mr. Pedersen works for Eatons—Mr. Pedersen actually has worked for Woodwards for the past 18 years.)

ations ago.

People still go to the campsite just to work the hills. Many come away rewarded with enough of the precious metal to make a

Continued on Page 9

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If Variety Is the Spice of Life then Finland Is for You

If variety be the spice of life, and if the tourist of today is still seeking something different, something new, then Finland should definitely be the destination on his ticket.

Finland is a beautiful lake-studded country where ultra-modern architecture blends harmoniously with medieval castles. It is gay, colorful, fascinating, and its people are industrious, friendly and hospitable.

In Finland the standard of living is high in comparison with that of many other countries. The pulse of life beats strong and fast. Cultural activities thrive in all segments of the population and social conditions can stand comparison with those of any other country. The social work in Finland has traditions far back in the past. Finland was one of the first countries to introduce the 8-hour day, and to grant women equal political rights with men. Finland has the highest percentage of literacy in the world. For the lover of music, architecture and fine arts, Finland has much to offer. Names such as Jean Sibelius, Eliel Saarinen, Alvar Aalto, Wäinö Aaltonen, F. E. Sillanpää and Mika Waltari tell of great deeds done in the fields of music, architecture, sculpture and literature. To those interested in sports the name Finland conjures an athletic nation and the Olympic Games.

Finland belongs to the Scandinavian group of countries and has a population of four and a half million.

In area she is larger than all the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Maryland combined. The climate of southern Finland corresponds to that of Maine. The warmest month is July with temperatures well up in the high 70s and low 80s.

Helsinki, the capital, has some 480,000 inhabitants. Turku, the former capital of Finland and Tampere, the industrial centre, both have about 130,000 inhabitants. The great majority of the population is Finnish speaking. The Swedish-speaking minority lives mainly along the south and west coasts.

Finland is a republic. The president (elected for a six-year term of office) and the Diet of 200 members of parliament (elected for four years), possess the legislative power. The administration is in the hands of a Cabinet comprised of about 15 members. The Cabinet must enjoy the confidence of the Parliament.

Up to the middle of the 19th century, agriculture and cattle farming, together with fishing and hunting, were the main sources of livelihood for the majority of the population. Industrialization did not begin on any considerable scale until the 1860s, but at the outbreak of World War II the "industrial revolution" was well under way. Finland's abundant forest resources had then already won their predominant place in her national economy. In recent years Finnish heavy industry has expanded rapidly. Ice breakers have become a specialty of the Finnish ship-

building industry.

National food dishes in Finland include the "Kalakukko" (fish and meat baked in dough), smoked reindeer meat, Carelian pastry, salmon and trout from the rivers of Lapland, crayfish from mid-July until the end of September and cloudberry dessert. Also, the world-famous liquors, Mesimarja and Suomalainen.

Finland is famous for her world-renowned china, pottery, glassware, woven textiles, ryijyrugs, Kalevala ornaments of ancient origin, and sheath-knives (puukko). Building sets to construct a Finnish peasant house or the well-known "sauna" are fine presents for youngsters.

Beautiful, modern Helsinki ranks among the liveliest cities in Europe. Built on a peninsula this city is surrounded by hundreds of islands. On these, as well as in the city itself, are numerous colorful cafes, restaurants, and beaches. Most of the restaurants feature dinner music and several continental floor shows and dancing to excellent domestic and foreign orchestras.

Helsinki may sound remote, but it is as close to you as tomorrow. One page off your calendar pad and you can be standing on the streets of Helsinki enjoying the sights of flowery parks and hearing the music of foreign tongues.

Finland has much to offer her foreign visitors both in summer and winter. Modern hotels and tourist inns have been built all over the country, and even the most far-away reaches are conveniently accessible by air, rail, bus, lake-steamer or watercoach.

Her lakes, spic-and-span cities and her historical landmarks, scattered across her fascinating landscape, are but a few of the scenic attractions which contribute to her rising popularity among Canadian visitors. Most famous of her landmarks is Olavinlinna Castle, built in 1475, in the town of Savonlinna, right in the heart of Finland's eastern lake district—the largest and most beautiful lake area in Europe. From Savonlinna the visitor can take one of the daily lake-steamer trips of Kuopio, a picturesque town in north-central Finland. This eleven-hour lake trip takes one past thousands of scenic islands and historical landmarks.

A memorable six-hour lake trip can also be made in southwestern Finland by taking a comfortable watercoach from Aulanko, the country's top resort hotel, to Tampere, the second largest city.

In Turku, the oldest and third largest city, is Abo Castle, dating back to 1200,



By Elmer Kankkunen

They say that no news is good news, however, I'm not too sure about that right now.

Our club went into hibernation early in December and will stay in that state till the new executive prods it back to life sometime in February. This mid-winter break is so long that members will have trouble recognizing each other when they meet again. □

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ANNUAL MEETING

is any life left.

The scene at the Scandinavian Centre Annual Meeting last year wasn't too promising. The start of the meeting was delayed till a bare minimum of members showed up. Of those in attendance, the greatest majority belonged to the ranks of our senior citizens. I wondered to myself how these older people felt. Many of them have contributed a lot of time and effort to building the Centre and believe sincerely in its concept that it being a home for our Scandinavian groups.

I was especially disappointed in what happened to Scandapades this year. Many people were waiting and wondering if and when auditions would be held and when rehearsals would start.

The Scandinavian Centre News contained no mention of Scandapades in either the November or December issues, just a very brief statement in the January issue to the effect that Scandapades '75 has been cancelled. No explanation, nothing—what a let down!

Watching Scandapades '72 and '74 convinced me that this event probably united our groups more than all the other activities combined throughout the remainder of the year. If only a portion of the enthusiasm and momentum created by Scandapades could be somehow recaptured and projected over the rest of the year, the old folks would have little to be concerned about. Some of the children may have left the home, but the grandchildren would be banging on the door to get in.

So let's give the old-timers something to smile about by showing up and speaking up at the Scandinavian Centre Annual Meeting on Feb. 19. □

which is the only castle in Europe completely renovated which has an historic restaurant that is a treat for the most discriminating gourmet.

Motorists entering Finland need only show proof of ownership of the automobile and to show their registration and driver's license. The roads are fair. Gasoline and oil are plentiful. For Drive-Your-Self cars, get in touch with

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SAS NEWS

ring or another moment of their unique expedition.

To get to the site, adventurers fly SAS from Oslo to Lakselv and then bus to Karasjok village. From there they take a four or five-hour river boat ride on the Lapp River through some of Europe's wildest and most unspoiled bear and reindeer country.

Accommodations at the mining camp are just about what you might expect for prospectors—tents and Lapp turf huts. All meals are prepared over an open fire, with each person expected to contribute to the work.

The staple diet consists of fresh salmon, trout and red char, straight from the Karasjokka River, and reindeer steaks provided by Lapps. You can stay for a few days, or all summer if you like. The chances to meet people in this wilderness are few. You will need a sleeping bag and mess gear, but other items can be bought in the shops at Karasjok. Prospecting equipment is included in the tour.

Gold digging programs are available from all SAS North American gateways including Montreal, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and Seattle.

Those travelling from May to September can mine twenty-four hours a day as the sun never sets during that time of the year.

Those interested can obtain information and prices by contacting their local Scandinavian Airlines office or by writing to Gold, Box AU, Scandinavian Airlines, 800 Dorchester Blvd. West, Suite 530, Montreal, P.Q.

NORWEGIAN YOUTH HOSTELS: A NEW FEATURE IN SKI PACKAGES

Fully aware of the growing popularity of cross-country skiing, the Norwegian National Youth Hostel Association, together with Scandinavian Airlines, has prepared a catalogue of winter tour programs with plenty of skiing and with a price tag which is hard to beat.

Keeping in mind that it is usually the youngsters who are overlooked.

Now, how does, for instance, \$40 grab you? For a week, including three meals per day. Good, wholesome Norwegian meals,

Continued on Page 10

your travel agent or the Finnish Automobile Club, Fabianink, 14, Helsinki. There are excellent camping sites near every city, town and rural community. The majority of them are furnished with the necessary basic facilities and most of them are patrolled.

Living and traveling in Finland is not expensive, and no matter which mode of travel you take, you will enjoy every moment of your stay in Finland. □

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SAS NEWS

about two hours from Oslo by bus, professional ski instructors who double as social directors and accommodations in a setting which is guaranteed to take your breath away.

And you don't have to be a skier. They will make a skier out of you. The main thing is that you are interested in skiing. The rest is easy. They will teach you how to ski, how to take care of your skis, first aid under winter conditions, how to survive when forced to spend the night in the open. You go through all the rules for mountain safety and you learn how to use a map and compass. After a week you are not only an expert skier but you will feel completely at home in the snowy wilderness.

Skis can be rented on the spot in case you don't want to bring your own. In many cases, people don't want to bring their own; they prefer to buy their own in Norway and take advantage of the low prices.

The evenings are spent dancing, watching movies and improvising all kinds of fun. Skating is available, too, as well as curling and tobogganing.

There are nearly 30 youth hostels in Norway offering one-week ski packages throughout the season. Accommodations are on a shared-room basis, sometimes even 4 to a room. Most of the packages are scheduled to start on Sundays, ending on Fridays.

More information is available at all SAS offices in Canada and at your travel agency.

IN-FLIGHT SYSTEMS FOR SAFETY, ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY

Passengers are rarely aware of what a multiplicity of instruments and devices lie inside the sleek surfaces of the modern jetliner, but travellers on Scandinavian Airlines' big jets may be interested to know that SAS will be carrying some very special systems designed to add to the safety, economy and environmental compatibility of flight.

SAS has become widely known in the last few months as the first airline to install Ground Proximity Warning devices, designed to alert the pilot with a "whoop, pull up" signal if he's getting too close to the terrain below. These have just been made mandatory for all U.S. airlines.

Starting next year, SAS will also equip a 747 with sensors to measure pollution.

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ARTICLES & BOOKS

biographical fragment, articles and early novels.

(Published by the University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508; 160 pp., \$8.50.) □

THE BITTER YEARS, by

Richard Petrow, tells the story of the invasion and occupation of Denmark and Norway by the Germans during World War II. Mr. Petrow narrates the story about the first battles in Norway when the cruiser, Blücher, was sunk in the Oslofjord with a loss of more than 1,000 Germans; the Allied (French-British) campaign at Narvik and the fierce battles in the valleys, where badly armed Norwegian troops tried to stop the German advance. Also related in dramatic detail are accounts of the Norwegian resistance fighters' raid on the Norsk Hydro heavy water plant at Rjukan (so essential to Germany in its development of an atomic bomb), the resistance of Norwegian teachers faced with imprisonment by the Germans and the resistance efforts of Danish and Norwegian underground workers.

Richard Petrow is Chairman of the Department of Journalism at New York University. (Published by William Morrow & Company, Inc., 105 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016; 400 pp., photos, \$10.95.) □

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ICELAND

continues and says that the witchcraft of the Icelanders is such that they can tell foreign visitors what is happening at their far away homes and that they can command the winds and in fact do sell foreign captains wind for their sails at exorbitant prices.

All these misconceptions about Iceland were mostly due to the country's isolation through several centuries, and it is only in recent years that enlightened people throughout the world are beginning to know more about Iceland.

Although the northernmost part of Iceland touches the Arctic circle, the climate is relatively temperate. The country is almost surrounded by a warm current branching from the main Gulf Stream, and the average temperature at Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, is 52°F in July, but 30° in January.

Geologically, Iceland is very young. Her interior consists largely of uninhabitable mountain plateaus, glaciers, lava fields, rivers and lakes, the highest mountain being Hvannadalshnukur, which is 6,950 feet high. The coastline is highly irregular, deeply indented by bays and fjords which abounds in all kinds of fish.

Iceland is really the geologist's paradise. There he can see with his own eyes what he reads about geological formations in his textbooks. On this point, Mr. Peter Smith, a member of the Imperial College Icelandic Expedition of 1958, had this to say in his article in the Rochdale Observer of 31st January, 1959:

**Kitchen Corner****STRAWBERRY HEARTS**

1 - 10 oz. pkg. frozen strawberries (thawed)
1 pkg. strawberry jello
2 c. cream (whipped)

Drain strawberries, reserving syrup. Add water to syrup to make 1 cup and heat. Dissolve gelatin in hot liquid, add strawberries. Chill till partially set. Fold whipped cream into gelatin mixture. Pour into heart-shaped individual molds.

Apple desserts are usually a hit! Try this one. It is different and delicious.

APPLE MINCEMEAT CRISP

1 3/4 c. mincemeat
4 medium apples pared and sliced
1/2 c. brown sugar
1/3 c. flour
1 tsp. cinnamon

"The interior of the island, with its vast deserts of lava and ice, is almost uninhabited. Central Iceland is thus the paradise of the explorer with an interest in geology, glaciology, or any other applied geographic science."

The well-known British author, Eric Linklater, describes Iceland with greater literary metaphors in his interesting book, "The Ultimate Viking". He says:

"Iceland's magnificently tormented landscape is the precipitation, initially, of submarine volcanic explosions a degree or two south of the Arctic Circle. Though larger than Ireland, little of its land except the coastal fringe is habitable. The greater part is rugged desert between two and three thousand feet high, with mountains that rise to nearly 7,000 feet; and from their savage slopes lofty ice fields descend to black lava barrens that its still active volcanoes have thrown out. Vatnajökul, the largest of the ice fields, is as big as Corsica, and there are between thirty and forty lesser fields. . . . There are several thousand hot springs, most of them small and gentle, but some exuberant. Stori Geysir, the Great Spouter, has acquired a general renown and given its name to all such watery eruptions. The landscape varies from infinite desolation to majestic grandeur. . . ."

Linklater also says:

"The visitor will first be impressed by the extraordinary cohabitation of heat and cold, of ice and flame. Instinctively, one associates volcanic eruption with hot countries; with Sicily and

Continued on Page 11

1/3 c. green onions, sliced
2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
1/2 c. olives, chopped

Toss together with 3 tbsp. mayonnaise and 1/2 cup tomato sauce.

Mix well and spread on buns. Wrap in tin foil and bake 10-15 minutes in 400° oven. Serve hot.

SCANDINAVIAN RECIPE FOR FEBRUARY MYSOSTUR

(a brown cheese spread)
From The Swinging Gourmet
3/4 cup evaporated milk or cream

1/4 lb. butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 lb. pkg. "Primost" (found in the dairy case)

Melt butter, sugar and primost over low heat. Add milk or cream and beat until thick. Refrigerate.

INSTANT MYSOSTUR

1 can eagle brand milk

Drop unopened can of milk into a saucepan of boiling water, making sure the can is kept covered at all times. Boil for 4 hours. □

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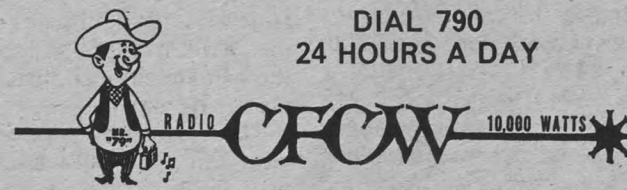
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ICELAND

Martinique, with Krakatoa and Japan. But in Iceland, under the Arctic Circle, there have been in the last thousand years some eighty eruptions from twenty-five volcanoes, and here and there the land is split by the gigantic fissures of earthquakes."

Important facts in breaking the isolation of Iceland were the introduction of trawlers at the turn of the century, the telegraphic cable laid to Iceland in 1906, and the establishment of the Icelandic Steamship Company in 1914, which ever since has operated passenger and tramp services between Iceland and Europe and America.

But it was not until the advent of aviation that Iceland finally ceased to be isolated. When the aviators from the United States were experimenting with a round-the-world flight during the years 1920-1930, it became clear that Iceland was a most suitable stepping stone on the flight between America and Europe. This was further demonstrated in 1933 when the Italian, **Marshal Balbot**, flew direct from Reykjavik to Labrador on his way to America. Colonel **Charles A. Lindberg** also stopped in Iceland in 1933 when he flew over the Atlantic from New York via Greenland, Iceland and the Shetland Islands to Copenhagen. The German, **von Gronau**, also stopped in Iceland on his flight over the Atlantic.

By the outbreak of the Second World War it was a well-known fact in informed circles that the strategic importance of Iceland was such that in any conflict in the North Atlantic the utilization of Iceland as an air and naval base could be decisive. That is why the British landed a force of marines at Reykjavik on the 10th May, 1940.

In 1941 it was felt the British forces were needed elsewhere. A treaty was then concluded between the United States and Iceland permitting American Forces to take over from the British the defense activities of Iceland. Simultaneously the U.S.A., as Britain had done before, promised to withdraw all their forces at the end of the war and to recognize Iceland as an independent and sovereign state.

During the Second World War Iceland became a great stepping stone on the flights between America and Europe. By its geographical position it was also the natural Naval Fort in the North Atlantic from which the convoys of the North Atlantic coming from America to England and Russia with the much-needed Lend-Lease goods could be protected or destroyed, depending on whether friend or foe had bases in Iceland. From then on there was no question of Iceland being iso-

lated; her strategic importance had thrust her into the highways of the world. Time and again during the Second World War the number of Allied soldiers stationed in Iceland outnumbered the Icelandic population.

The foundation and rapid growth of the two Icelandic Air Corporations, The Icelandic Airlines—**Lofleidir** and **Icelandair**—operating air services to Europe and the former also to the United States, has done much to keep Iceland in constant touch with the western world.

As to inland travel, the horse used to be the traditional means of transport for centuries. Now the automobile and aeroplane have replaced it.

Prosperity came with the independence of the country and the development and utilization of Iceland's resources by the Icelanders themselves.

With (1) the industrial revolution, which is still in full swing in Iceland, (2) individual initiative and development of private enterprise by the Icelanders themselves, (3) the co-operative and labor movement, as well as (4) social-minded political leadership, the Icelanders have steadily advanced in terms of economical, cultural, technical and social developments.

Together with this development there has been a rapid evolution of economic equality and social justice. Today there is probably less class distinction in Iceland than anywhere else in the world. The highest paid employees in the Icelandic Government, such as Ministers and Members of the Supreme Court, have only just over five times the salary of the lowest paid, the messenger boy. The British scholar, **Professor Gwyn Jones**, has made an interesting point about this fact in his article, "My Noble Friends, the Icelanders", in the Winter 1955-56 issue of the **European-Atlantic Review**. He says:

In a country where everyone can trace his ancestry back to his favorite settler in the ninth or early tenth century, how can one man be called an aristocrat and another a wage-slave? To the outsider the nation appears one large family, not free from the strains of family relationships, but always aware of the ties that bind them close.

For one thing, there are no grievous extremes of wealth or poverty. For another, the emphasis is on the man himself, not what he has. There is simply no room for condescension or servility. From Prime Minister to trawler-hand, from Rector of the University to the smallest farmer, you get the same kind of welcome, the same sort of treatment. You have to meet their standards of personal worth, there is no buying or wheedling your way in."

Few nations have developed the Welfare State to

such an extent as Iceland, unless it is Sweden.

In this scenic Land of the Sagas visit an active snow-crowned volcano, boiling geysers 180 feet high, fertile valleys framed by spectacular mountains, tropical gardens under glass! Roam a seacoast of sunny bays warmed by Gulf Stream waters, by plane, car, bus or exciting saddle ponies. Try the Old World's finest fishing . . . or fly over the Arctic Circle and see the Midnight Sun, swim outdoors all year in a thermal heated pool. Visit Reykjavik's modern museums, National Theatre. Excellent hotels in the large towns; continental cuisine famous for seafood. Shopping buys from tweeds and sheepskin rugs to filigree silver, delightful wood carvings. Conducted tours by Iceland Tourist Bureau. □

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TRIP TO WINNIPEG

that the Norwegian proverb "De gamle er eldst" is true, it means something like "The old are the oldest", in other words, trust the oldtimers, they have the experience.

As far as the provincial politics of Manitoba goes, **Ed Schreyer** and his NDP party is in power. I heard a saying in my younger days that every country (or province) has the government it deserves, and since I don't know much about the rule of Manitoba, all I have to say is that for better or for worse it got the government it deserves.

I found out during my stay in Winnipeg that **Joey Smallwood's** comeback bid had failed. It seems to me that comebacks are very difficult and a very high percentage of them do fail. I remember the boxer, **Joe Louis**, how he tried to get back to the top, more on his name than on his ability, and it all ended in grief. This of course is much different from politics, where your ability to hit hard is not so important, or maybe it is!

My friend and accordion player in Norway, **Tore Aunebakk**, quit his music and tried later to start up again as he said "On his good name and reputation." It didn't work, and he got away from it again quickly before both his name and his reputation were ruined. Again, this is a case that cannot be compared to politics, but it is an attempted comeback. **St. Olaf** of Norway was trying a comeback when he was killed at **Stiklestad**—the people were not ready for him at that particular time. We can quote all kinds of samples of comebacks that went down in defeat, but this won't be necessary. The safest thing to do is, if you excel in something, keep it up till you have had more than enough, or are completely washed up, and then quit, and never look back.

My friends, **Don** and **Sheila**, took me out to Gimli in their car one Sunday. This is the famous Icelandic

settlement on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg most Scandinavians in the west have heard about. Apparently the lake is rising and all along the waterfront is a wall of sandbags to stop the town from getting flooded.

At Gimli Park is a monument saying in part: "Icelandic Settlement Gimli. In October, 1875, the first permanent Icelandic settlement in Canada was established in this district."

It goes on to say that the first year 250 persons arrived, and the next year, 1,200 more came. This is quite a large number of people coming from a country as thinly populated as Iceland. I have seen Iceland from the air, and to me it is pretty hard to imagine. So the newcomers to Manitoba named their settlement, Gimli, the home of the gods, or heavenly abode. Later on they might have had misgivings about such a name—I understand they ran into all kinds of hardships for awhile. But today, the town is prosperous, it has a well-known air base, a nice harbour for commercial fishing boats as well as for pleasure boats, there are a lot of summer cottages around, with a fine sandy beach. People from Winnipeg and other places go there on weekends and holidays to get away from the rat race for awhile. Down by the lakeside is a statue of a viking, with the following inscription: Vikings, discoverers of America 1000 AD. Unveiled by Dr. **Asgeir Asgierson**, President of Iceland, in our Centennial year 1967. Erected by Gimli Chamber of Commerce.

Most Icelanders are of Norwegian descent, the early settlers of 1000 years ago

were mostly, what we today call, political refugees, besides some adventurers. They wanted to get away from the hard rule of some of the Norwegian kings. So Iceland has never had a king of their own, according to **Snorri** there is a Norwegian king buried there. His name is **Rorek**, and he was banished from Norway after he had first been blinded by **St. Olaf** and his men. So even today, a Norwegian considers an Icelander as one of his less fortunate distant relatives, even if there is a reason to it or not. We always have to be thankful to them for writing down our early history and, of course, their own, and for keeping the old traditions and language alive through the centuries.

As I said, we were in Gimli on a Sunday and at this time of the year (November) it was very quiet and they had rolled up all the sidewalks. But I am sure on Monday morning the Mayor of Gimli, **Violet Einarson**, will wake everybody up and get them back to work and what have you. I bought an Icelandic flag in a drugstore, it looked so much like the Norwegian flag that I had to think hard before I realized there was a difference in the color combinations. I have a feeling that when they designed the flag they must have had the Norwegian one in front of them as a model. But that is alright, after all we are brothers and sisters.

In Winnipeg I went to see **Mr. Finnbogason**, a man of Icelandic origin who has made good working for the **Eaton Company**. He had never seen me or heard of me before, but when I mentioned

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TRIP TO WINNIPEG

I had flown over Iceland earlier in the year, he seemed to warm up right away. It is funny, just mentioning your mother country, or call it fatherland, how it touches the heart. So I mentioned that my friend in Surrey, B.C., has an Icelandic horse, and then we really started talking. He had some excellent photos from Iceland in his office, and they showed a modern country with today's people, houses, machinery and so on. I must admit I was not too much impressed with what I saw of Iceland from the air, but the photos were different, there is only one thing they don't have for sure, forests. Mr. Finnbogason also gave me an address in Reykjavik where I can get information about Icelandic music. Icelanders belong to the family of Scandinavian countries, but I have been unable to get hold of any of their music so far. When I asked about Icelandic music in one of the largest music stores in Oslo last summer, I was more or less told there was no such thing. When we think about how the Icelanders wrote the sagas and told us, among other things, the history of the Norwegian kings, it sounds unbelievable that they can't write music, even though sagas and music are widely different, but Mr. Finnbogason assured me there are all kinds of it. Time will tell.

My friends, Bryant and Larry, and myself went to see the "Drifters", a black singing quartet. Some people say we are all the same, we are all equals, color is only skin deep. But I dare say that no white person alive would fit into that quartet, taking into consideration the singing, the acting and the action and what have you. I don't say the show was good or bad, it was different, and we whites, counting one-two-three-four in music, we just don't belong. So when they walk off the stage, you have the sad feeling that you have seen and heard something at least the nordic races would be unable to repeat. The only consolation is that we hopefully can do things they can't do. The main difference seems to be that they are much more loose-jointed and less rigid than we are.

There is so much talk nowadays that religion is a thing of the past, that it is outdated, God is dead, in other words that religion is not "in" any more. I think this is a bunch of hogwash. When I told the record company I was going to make a religious recording, I was not met with much enthusiasm. I was told I would sell a few, that a religious recording would supplement my catalogue, in other words, people wouldn't have to look for waltzes and polkas in all my recordings, so it would help make me more versatile, and my recordings a bit more varied. Outside

of that, just good luck. Now "Music for Meditation" is released and it is a favorite. The schottish hymn melody, "Amazing Grace", tops the list in popularity, but people also like "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", "Nearer My God to Thee", not to mention "Ode to Joy" and "Ave Maria". By the way, it can be argued whether there is such a thing as religious music, as it is impossible to prove scientifically. But the average person does not worry about that, they can tell a hymn when they hear one. It can also be argued that my accordion playing is not a deep religious experience, again I can say: People don't worry about that, they want my hymn record, and no ifs and no buts.

One weekend we were at Brandon, a city roughly 120 miles west of Winnipeg. In "History of Brandon" it says it became a city one year after it was founded in 1881, and because it came up so suddenly it was known as the Wonder City of the Northwest. It has also been called The Opportunity City and Wheat City. Brandon has a nice location in the Assiniboine River Valley, the present-day population is about 32,000. I don't know about any Scandinavian organizations in Brandon but there are many Scandinavians in and around the city. And people are so friendly. There is something about the atmosphere in the smaller places you don't find in the big towns, and the tempo doesn't seem so rushed. The history of Brandon is typical for the opening of the western prairie, how land and property-hungry people, mostly from Europe, came running and gobbled it all up in no time at all. I also found out that even a city like Fargo, North Dakota, has a history similar to Brandon's and is not that much older.

A funny thing happened during the Brandon promotion. One of my 8-track tapes was used for advertising outside the store. After it had been played all day, I went and listened to it, and since I should know all my recordings, I heard right away that two different recordings were played at the same time. How that happened to come about I shall never know, but the tape was replaced with a good one. No wonder a man came to me in the store and said: "That tape out there doesn't do credit to your music."

I also appeared on CKX-TV Brandon on some kind of a noon show—the station has a large rural audience.

Back in Winnipeg again, Gerry, the London Records man, my friend, Bryant, and myself had lunch at the Happy Vineyard one day with Gene Telpner, entertainment editor for the Winnipeg Tribune, circulation around 90,000. This man has interviewed people like Lawrence Welk, Sammy Davis Jr., Jo Stafford, Frank Sinatra, et al, and at one time he was

also a scriptwriter for Arthur Godfrey, and I have always believed that the Godfrey show was spontaneous, and that he was making everything up as he went along. And now this man was coming to interview me. Gene Telpner does a lot of travelling, I believe he said he had been to Europe 47 times, and he is never stuck for anything to talk about. For a bystander it would have been hard to figure out who was the interviewer and who was being interviewed. But he wrote a good story, and here is how it appeared in the Winnipeg Tribune:

"Did you know that Winnipeggers have purchased more than 6,000 London recording albums by Olaf Sveen in the past two or three weeks? What, you've never heard of Olaf Sveen who is just about the hottest recording artist in recent history? He's a very pleasant Norwegian who now makes his home in Edmonton and the instrument he plays is the accordion. This week I had lunch with Olaf and two recording company officials, Bryant Stevens, of All Records, and Gerry Young, of London. 'It is absolutely fantastic,' said Bryant as we dined at the Happy Vineyard. 'Olaf's success with his albums has taken the industry by storm.' I was surprised too because I had no idea that people flocked to buy accordion records these days. Olaf is a very modest gentleman who came from Norway to Canada in 1949, now lives with his wife and six children in Edmonton where he has appeared at the Hofbrauhaus in that city. 'My grandfather and father both played the accordion, so I guess I come by my talent naturally,' smiled the husky Scandinavian who is built like a lumberjack. Right now his big sellers are 'Olaf Sveen at the Hofbrauhaus' and 'Olaf Sveen Plays Christmas Music', but all of his 14 albums have sold extremely well. Originally Olaf only planned to be in Winnipeg a few days on his current promotion tour, but demand for his playing has been so great he's extended it. 'We Scandinavians love music, and don't forget Myron Floren who plays for Lawrence Welk is one of us,' Olaf reminded me. No matter if you agree or disagree with what he writes, it has to be admitted that he writes well.

I never heard of Ukrainian music before I came to Canada, it was a surprise to find it so prominent here. In Norway we talked about Swiss music, German music and I really liked the Hungarian music by Franz Liszt, and have found out later that Liszt's music is not Hungarian music, but Hungarian Gypsy music. Also liked Irish music such as "Galway Bay", "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", now they tell me this is not Irish music, but music written by German composers for their Italian wives living in New York

city. Many old beliefs fall by the wayside.

And this leads us up to the end of my promotion tour to Winnipeg. On the last day of my time there, there were two of us promoting records in the store at the same time, and the other one was Al Cherney. There were ads in the Free Press about it, the one about me went like this: "Come on in and meet Olaf Sveen from Edmonton. Accordion musician and recording star of Scandinavian music. Olaf invites you to listen to the melodious sounds of Scandinavia, especially Norway, his native land." Now, it is bad timing to have two similar promotions at the same time, but by now we were sold out of all my best-selling titles and they could not be replaced by the factory fast enough, so I already had my ticket to Edmonton in my pocket. The store manager told us it wasn't the first time this kind of double booking had happened to him, one time he had Stompin' Tom and Harry Hibbs. Al Cherney and myself got along real well, he is from Medicine Hat and told me he used to listen to me in the early fifties. He also mentioned Don Messer. Don had told him last time they were on a show together that he was tired, all those late working hours wears a guy down.

I didn't go to any Scandinavian eating places in Winnipeg. We drove past a place called Vasa Lund where they offered a smorgasbord, but we were always in too much of a hurry to stop in.

I was shown the home of Bobby Hull, the hockey player. It was big and reminded me a bit of the Wain-

wright railroad station. I was also told that some Swedish and Finnish hockey players in Winnipeg are very colorful players, and really help draw crowds. If they can skate like the Swedish speed skater, Ake Seyffarth, I saw in 1947 in the Trondheim stadium then I am sure they will be alright. At that time he held the world record for 5,000 metres. Right now, anything Swedish goes over in Winnipeg, they even call coffee "Swedish gasoline".

One Sunday night the train rolls out of the station, going west, and I am on it. This is goodbye to Winnipeg, the coldest large city in the world. It also has the windiest street corner in Canada at Portage and Main, I believe. This is also goodbye to my friends, Bryant, Barbara and their children, and all the other nice people in this splendid city, a city we must admit is still a notch greater than Edmonton.

By now we are coming to the trip back home across the prairie. I talked to a newcomer from Oslo working at a gas station in Edmonton recently and he said: "On the prairie there is nothing to fasten your eyes on." Looking out the window from the train I was thinking about that statement. It seems to be the least to fasten your eyes on in Saskatchewan, but even so, I read one time they claim to have the longest valley in the world. It is the Fort Qu'Appelle Valley. And, above all, the Canadian prairie is one of the breadbaskets of the world.

Finally, the train arrives in Edmonton. It is good to be home. □

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